TAMIL TIMES

VOL II No.6 40 PENCE APRIL 1983

GOVT. OPENS UP NEW FRONT OF ATTACK

GANDHIYAM PRESIDENT, SECRETARY & OTHERS ARRESTED — OFFICES SEALED

Gandhiyam's head office at Vavuniya and its other district offices have been sealed; its President Mr. S.A. David, Organising Secretary Dr. Rajasundaram and other key workers have been arrested and detained in the Army Camps of Panagoda in Colombo and Gurunagar in Jaffna.

This clamp-down on Gandhiyam and the detention of its office-bearers could not have been carried out without a deliberate and definite decision by the Government at its highest level to open up a new front in its campaign of escalating the oppression of the Tamil speaking people.

After all, Gandhiyam is a charitable organisation with no political objectives. Its main activity during the last few years has been to provide a place for the thousands of Tamil refugees who came from the plantation areas as a direct consequence of recurring racial violence directed at them by racist gangs from the South. Not only did the government fail to prevent this repeated racial violence and to provide the people with security, it criminally failed in its legitimate duty to provide the victims with the relief and rehabilitation they needed. It is this callous and shameful failure on the part of the government that gave rise to the formation of Gandhiyam.

GANDHIYAM TO THE RESCUE

Gandhiyam came to the rescue of these displaced Tamils particularly from the up-country plantation areas. Unlike other organisations with similar charitable objectives which received generous government grants and other assistance, Gandhiyam did not. It had to depend on assistance from voluntary charitable organisations within Sri Lanka and abroad. Due to the self-less and dedicated efforts of its President, S.A. David and Secretary, Dr. Rajasundaram, Gandhiyam grew into an organisation providing relief and rehabilitation to over 85,000 people. If not for Gandhiyam, the tragedy that would have struck these people would have been unimaginable.

The laudable relief work done by Gandhiyam was very often thwarted by the government's security forces which frequently attacked and ravaged its rehabilitation settlements, arrested and assaulted its workers, including women.

ARSON AT PANKULAM

The latest attack on Gandhiyam would appear to be an effort by the government to destroy its organisation by incarcerating its leaders. The sealing of its offices and detention of its leaders were preceded by the burning down of seventeen huts belonging to Gandhiyam in PANKULAM in the Trincomalee district. These huts were occupied by Tamil refugees from the plantation areas in the hill country.

According to affidavits signed by Gandhiyam volunteers T. Vijeyakumary, K. Shanthi and K. Rubakanthan who were eye-witnesses to the incident, Grama Sevaka Kanaganayagam and five other government officers attached to the Pankulam AGA's office — Upali, Senanayake, Wijeratna and two others whom the volunteers can identify — had come to the Bharathipuram Gandhiyam Centre, Pankulam, armed with clubs and batons, round about 9 a.m. on 14th March. They had told the volunteers they were going to burn the huts and chase the people away from Pankulam.

Gandhiyam volunteer Rubakanthan pleaded with them not to do so as these families had come as refugees from south Sri Lanka and been settled in Pankulam for some time. The Grama Sevaka replied he was acting on the orders of the AGA Pankulam and moved towards the huts around the Centre. While the five government officers stood guard round him, the GS then set fire to the huts. Altogether 16 huts, with household utensils inside, were burnt down. The occupants were away at work at the time while the children were at the Centre's pre-school.

Following a complaint lodged by the hut-owners at the Uppuveli Police Station the next morning, three police officers and G.S. Kanaganayagam went to the Centre on 16th March, questioned the 3 volunteers and a few villagers and recorded statements. Apart from questions about the activities of Gandhiyam, they had also asked Rubakanthan about the Tiger movement: he replied he had nothing to do with any movement other than Gandhiyam.

On 17th March five police officers led by S.I Luise had gone to the Centre, searched it and taken charge of the pre-school children's register, and some other documents. After questioning the two female volunteers, Vijeyakumary and Shanthi, the Police ordered them to report at the Uppuveli Police Station that evening.

They then questioned Rubakanthan about the activities of Gandhiyam, accused him of lying and assaulted him with a rifle and hands. He was dragged to the jeep, pushed on to its floor and assaulted again. He was then taken to the Uppuveli Police Station and locked up till 10 p.m. that night, where he was stripped and assaulted once again.

Vijeyakumary and Shanthi were warned at the Police Station that evening not to have anything to do with Gandhiyam.

Some of the arson victims who went to the Uppuveli Police Station to make a statement were reportedly assaulted by the Police Officers. Two of them, M. Muthu and M. Kovindasamy, had been warded at Trinco Hospital.

It is learnt, meanwhile, that there are moves to settle some Sinhalese families who have been moved out of the Kotmale Project area in the Pankulam area.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

TAMIL TIMES

OLIVE BRANCH OR STINGING NETTLE

The attack on Gandhiyam, a charitable organisation mainly engaged in the work of rehabilitation of refugees, and the arrest and detention of its President, Secretary, Treasurer and other key workers mark a new level in the continuing campaign of oppression of the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka.

Up to now, the Sri Lankan government has attempted to cover-up the brutal excesses of its security forces by describing them as measures directed at "terrorists". But the present action against Gandhiyam is a concrete manifestation of the government's dastardly design to totally subjugate the Tamil speaking people by even not permitting charitable organisations to look after and care for those who had become victims of repeated racial violence. Forty-thousand people in Vavuniya alone will face destitution and starvation if Gandhiyam is not allowed to function and continue to support them.

What has emerged during the tenure of the present government under President J.R. Jayawardene is that the so-called olive branch he publicly holds out to the Tamil people is nothing more than a stinging nettle. On the one hand he calls for a "Committee of National Unity", holds high-level talks with the leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front, and goes to India and promises to journalists that the grant of civic rights to "stateless" Tamils of Sri Lanka is imminent. He sounds like an embodiment of sweetness, moderation and reasonableness when he pontificates from public platforms. On the other hand, not only does he pursue and perpetuate the discriminatory policies against the Tamil speaking people, but also permits his army and police to engage in uncontrolled terror against the Tamils. He uses the Terrorism Act to take into custody and keep in detention incommunicado, not only youths suspected of having engaged in political violence, but also religious priests, university teachers and students and office-bearers of charitable organisations like Gandhiyam.

Particularly since the Presidential election and the referendum to extend the life of Parliament, the government has, by a massive escalation of its repressive action, proved that it is simply not interested in a political solution of the "Tamil problem". Instead, it has made it demonstrably clear that the only course it wishes to adopt is a military solution. By its own actions, the government is forcing upon the people a civil war situation, in which the mass of the Tamil speaking people will inevitably be drawn in. It may not be an easy matter to set up a separate state of Eelam in the present context. But the government must realise that it cannot for ever contain the resistance movement of over a million people who have demonstrated that they are not willing to barter away their rights, self-respect and identity.

'TAMIL PROBLEM' HIGH LIGHTED AT DELHI & BERLIN

In spite of the efforts made by the Sri Lankan government and its missions abroad to conceal and suppress the true but unpleasant facts concerning the discriminatory treatment meted out to the Tamil speaking people of SriLanka, and to present a good image of the country, two recently held international occasions were successfully seized upon to present the problems facing the Tamils. The efforts of the Sri Lankan government to thwart the internationalisation of 'Tamil problem' signally failed on these two occasions.

NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam achieved a major propaganda coup when some unidentified youth successfully breached the secuirty cordon surrounding the recently held Non-aligned Summit at New Delhi and distributed to the delegations and the large gathering of journalists from all over the world an impressive document entitled, "TAMILS FIGHT FOR NATIONAL FREEDOM: STATE TERRORISM IN SRI LANKA". A copyof this document, purported tobe issued by the Political Committee of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has reached Tamil Times by post from India. The venue of the Non-aligned Summit, Vigyan Bhavan, was made out of bounds to all journalists, numbering over 1300, and the proceedings of the Summit were relayed tothe Media Centre, which was located in an adjoining building, by closed circuit television in four different languages — English, French, Spanishand Arabic.

How certain unidentified youths successfully penetrated the security network and distributed the literature has baffled even the Indian security service. It also has been distributed to the various delegations in the hotels where they resided for the duration of the Summit.

The document itself is a well prepared one giving a historical and almost a blow by blow account of the discrimination and oppression faced by the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka. A striking feature of this document is the absence of 'Tamil chauvinism' that characterised previous literature which emanated from the same quarters. It also reflected the increasing radicalisation that is under way among the present day Tamil youth.

The document is divided into sections under following heads:

1. Dimensions of national oppression; 2. Disenfranchisement ofhalf a million workers; 3. Planned annexation of Tamil lands; 4. Repression on language, employment and education; 5. Economic deprivation; 6. Racial riots and massacre of Tamils; 7. Peaceful campaigns for Federal Autonomy; 8. The demand forsecession; 9. Armed resistance and the Tiger Movement; and 10. World's conscience condemns Sri Lanka.

In making an appeal to the World Leaders, the memorandum states:

CONTD. ON PAGE 3

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

Cont. from Page 12

"Our liberation struggle, as an oppressed nation fighting against the oppressor, constitutes an integral part of the revolutionaryforces against the forces of reaction, the forces of imperialism, neo-colonialism, zionism and racism. Though each liberation struggle has its own historical specificityand its unique conditions, in their essence they articulate a universal historical tendency of the human aspiration for freedom from all system of oppression and exploitation. In this context, Tamil Eelam national struggle is similar in content tothat of the Palestinian struggle or Namibian struggle or any national struggle of the oppressed people based on theirright to national self-determination.

"We therefore appeal to the Government of India, who hosts this Great Forum, and to the Leaders of the Third World to sympathise and support the freedom struggle of the Eelam Tamils in the name of humanity, liberty and justice. We call upon you to condemn the genocidal oppressive policies of the Sri Lankan Government and to recognise our people's right to national self-determination.

"We, the Liberation Tigers, wish to express our support and solidarityto all the revolutionary liberation struggles of the oppressed masses of the world."

"TAMILS' FIGHT FOR NATIONAL FREEDOM: STATE TERRORISM IN SRI LANKA" is worthy of reading by anyone who is interested in the historical and present day facts concerning the 'Tamil problem' in Sri Lanka.

BERLIN FAIR

Sri Lankan residents in West Germany, in association with West German Human Rights organisations, seized the occasion of the ITB Berlin Fair held from March 5 to 11 to organise an impressive demonstration to focus attention on the plight of the Tamil speaking people of SriLanka.

The Berlin Fair is one of the major international gatherings concerning tourism. Over a hundred countries were represented and an average of 50,000 a day were in attendance at the Fair. The Ceylon Tourist Board and some private travel and tourist operators also participated in a big way, for West Germany provides the largest share in terms of tourism to Sri Lanka. In fact the main European office of the Ceylon Tourist Board is located in Frankfurt.

Sri Lankan Government and Tourist Board Officials were taken aback on the very inaugural day when about 30 Tamil expatriates grouped themselves in front of the Sri Lankan stall and carried protest banners condemning Police and Army terrorism against Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Slogans in Englishand German called for the release of Eelam Liberation fighters like Kuttimani, Jegan, Father Singarayer and Nirmala Nithiyananthan and others. Other slogans included: 'Taste Tamil Blood in Ceylon Tea'; 'Withdraw armed forces from Eelam Territory'. The youths also distributed photographs of Tamils killed bythe Police and Army, and handbills.

Following complaints by the Tourist Board Officials the Fair Authorities asked the Tamil youths towithdraw but on the intervention of German Human Rights workers the youths were given more time to carry on the picketing.

Demonstrations continued on the 6th, 7th and 8th of Marchas well. On the 9th Policemen were brought in and they tried to eject the Tamil youths by force but failed when the demonstrators lay down on the spot and refused to move.

The penultimate dayof the Fair — the 10th — was incident free but on the 11th, the final day of the Fair, more than 80 youths came dressed in white slogans inscribed on them. Along with representatives of Human Rights Organizations in Germany, the demonstrators distributed leaflets to all visitors to the Sri Lanka Stall.

This was followed byarguments between the authorities and the demonstration continued from 2 to 4 p.m., when about 75 members of the German Riot Squad, stormed the premises with loud speakers. This only served to focus more attention on the demonstrators with a crowd of media men clicking their T.V. and other cameras. West Berlin Radio Station, RIAS and newspapers like Der Tagespiegal, Tagezeitung, Sonntagblatt, and Volksblat gave wide coverage to the incidents.

SLFP EXAMINES ITSELF

The internal Three Man Committee appointed by the leadership of the Sri Lanka Freedom Pary to investigate the state of the party has stated in its report that the debacle at the Presidential elecation and the referendum and the other problems facing the party should be examined against the background of the present UNP government's relentless campaign of harassment and intimidation of its political opponents after its assumption to power in July 1977.

Conceding that politics and society in Sri Lanka have undergone far-reaching changes since the SLFP was founded by the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, the Committee adds that urgent attention should be paid to these changes in formulating any future programme of work.

The Committee highlights the following as the main problems facing the party:

Lack of party discipline.

Failure to convince the masses of its ability to defeat the UNP and goven the country.

The party became a victim of the plots of the UNP and other reactionary forces.

The delay in forming an anti-UNP front together with the Left parties.

The lack of active provincial organizations and the weakness of the provincial leadership.

Lack of coordination between the Centre, the party headquarters and its provincial level branches.

The alienation of the party from the rural poor.

The lack of a program to win over the Tamils and Moslems.

Declining support from certain caste groups.

Lack of a modern, and attractive propaganda campaign.

Confused attitudes within the party's upper echelons about the popular socialist ideas clearly enunciated by the founder of the SLFP.

Lack of funds.

Criticisms and challenging questioins directed at the party by the UNP and other opponents were not answered promptly and effectively.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

"WE ASK FOR FREEDOM, NOT DIVISION"

"FINAL VICTORY IS OURS"

— THANGATHURAI

NADARAJAH THANGAVELU, also known as Thangathurai, was the first of the six defendants who were recently charged before the High Court of Colombo, Sri Lanka, with conspiring to rob and of robbing the Peoples Bank, Neerveli Branch and sentenced to 15 years rigorous imprisonment each under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Never before has the case for the right of self-determination of the Tamil speaking people been put so clearly before a Court as Thangathurai did on this occasion. His statement to the Court is a lucid and forceful exposition of the Tamil cause. It is a thoroughly political statement devoid of any racist overtones towards the Sinhala majority community. Not only does Thangathurai graphically demonstrate the discrimination, the oppression and state terrorism to which the Tamil speaking people are being subjected to, but also puts forward the view that the liberation of the Tamil people will only help the Sinhalese people to free themselves from the fetters that shackle them today.

"We have already objected to a Court of Sri Lanka subjecting us to an inquiry. Despite that objection a case had been framed against us, and it has gone on for nearly four months now. For certain reasons we had to participate in the proceedings ourselves. Our counsel has already brought out categorically through the somersaults made by the Sri Lanka Policemen during his cross-examination and through his legal arguments and through our own evidence, the various acts of torture inflicted on us and their premeditated nature.

AHIMSA & SATYAGRAHA DIDN'T WORK

When the British Government entrusted the fate of the Tamils to a group of Sinhalese politicians, the Tamil people never clamoured for freedom for themselves. The Tamils naturally never suspected that they would in course of time be made second-class citizens in this country. But some Tamil leaders very prophetically asked for bigger representation for the Tamils. This was justified by later events, when the hill country Tamils were deprived of their franchise; what the next 25 years saw was not only the deprivation of Tamil rights everywhere but deprivation of Tamil lands as well. For over 20 years the Tamil leaders had expressed their protest in Parliament and outside very peacefully, and adopting the principles of ahimsa and satyagraha. But what happened?

UNCIVILISED VIOLENCE

In 1956 the Tamil leaders sat down to a peaceful protest on Galle Face Green. Thug violence was unleashed on them. Later when the Tamil leaders and the Tamil people sat in peaceful satyagraha in front of the Kacheries the Sri Lanka Army did not fail to react with uncivilised violence. In which chapter of your long history on democracy are you going to incorporate these events? Not one, not two, but there has been a continuous series of thuggery and violence inflicted on the Tamil people over a period of 35 years. How many chapters will you need to record this 35 year villainy? How many Tamils have been robbed of both their lives and their material wealth? There have been Tamil women whose chastity has been offended in the very presence of the family members. Tamil cultural wealth preserved for generations has been put to flames. What a mockery to think that these could be compensated by a few lakhs of rupees? Have all these acts of hurt and humiliation made the Tamil people lose their spirit? No. Have they gone back on their ideals? No. These acts of humiliation have only strengthened their resolve. We never missed an opportunity to make the Sri Lanka Government conscious of our mind. Twice in two elections the Tamil people have recently reinforced their aspirations.

Isn't it ridiculous for a Government that promotes race hatred and race killings to look at us and call us 'TERRORISTS'? While on one hand celebrations were going on marking '50 years of Parliamentary Democracy', the Tamil Members of the same Parliament were subject to midnight arrest and the house of one Member of Parliament was set on fire. These are not acts that you can do in a civilized world with your heads raised high. You talk of terrorism and robbery. Has this country seen anything to compare with the State Terrorism and the race hate carried on with State weaponry? It is not that the people are ignorant of what happened to the material possessions robbed from the Tamil people and then - recovered. We have even heard of influential Sri Lankan Government politicos terrorising people with revolvers! If anyone wants to say that these are not

CONTD. ON PAGE 5

SERENDIB TRAVELS

★ WE HAVE A WIDE SELECTION OF FLIGHTS TO COLOMBO, BOOK YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS IN SRI LANKA WITH US.

★ WHY NOT TELEPHONE US NOW AND BOOK YOUR SEATS?

★ FLIGHTS TO COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, JAKARTA, BANGKOK, AND TRIVANDRUM BY AIR LANKA - THE NATIONAL CARRIER.

SERENDIB TRAVELS
64 CRUSOE ROAD,
MITCHAM, SURRY.

TEL: 01-631 4114 (WESTEND OFFICE)
01-640 1844 (EVENINGS & WEEKENDS)

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 4

acts of terrorism that will be the biggest joke of the century.

FREEDOM, NOT DIVISION

Allegations are made that we are asking for separation, that we are trying to divide the country. When were we undivided after all? **Our traditional land captured by the European invaders has never been restored to us. We have not even mortgaged our land at any time to anyone in the name of one country. Our land has changed hands off and on under various regimes, and that is what has happened. We have yet to reach a stage when we can have our land for ourselves. What we ask for is not division but freedom. Why we ask this is not because of narrow thinking. What we hope to achieve is not only the emancipation of the Tamil people but the greater good of the Sinhalese people themselves.** Why? Because, thereafter, the so-called Tamil problem will cease to be a livelihood for opportunist Sinhalese politicians. That will provide a chance for the Sinhalese people to free themselves from the political, social and economic shackles that bind them ay and realize where their true slavery lies. There no testament in the world that declares that a people who fight to recover their own rights or work for their self-determination are guilty of sedition or terrorism. Had you endorsed our basic human rights at the very beginning this situation would not have arisen. You had not only **not** recognised our rights but for the purpose of clinging on to political seats of power you had been injecting into the poor innocent Sinhalese people hate and venom over the past 35 years. That not all the Sinhalese people have fallen victims to your racist poison has been proved by the fact that many of them during the times you have brought about race riots, have time and again rescued Tamils from armed thugs and complete extermination. It has been customary for every Opposition Party in Sri Lanka that wants to come to power to obstruct any settlement of the problems relating to the Tamils and rouse the Sinhalese people for that purpose.

BOGUS PROMISE

s against that, for a ruling party to permit racist violence as it has done during the past six years is more reprehensible. If the relationship between the Tamil people and the Sri Lanka Government has reached the present deplorable state, that responsibility lies squarely with the present dispensation. For the past quarter century the ruling governments have like parrots, kept on repeating the same threadbare statements "We will solve the Tamil problem". Whether we accept your solutions or not, what honest attempts have been made to solve the problems of the Tamils? While holding out the bogus promise of solving the problems of the Tamil people, you have spent all the time in trying to blunt Tamil resistance. What have the Tamil people asked you? Not economic benefits, not employment opportunities. That no such benefits could come from you is a fact well-known to them.

WHAT WE NEED IS SELF-RESPECT

"Even if you do come forward to grant those benefits what guarantee can you give the Tamils that they could live with self-respect in this island in the future? Whatever you give them without giving them the feeling of self-respect will be alien to them. **In this island there are sanctuaries for even wild animals but up to now there is no sanctuary in any part of this island where the Tamils can live without fear.** This is not something we can expect in the future either.

'TRUTH DOES NOT NEED PLATFORMS'

"The Deputy Solicitor General in the course of his examination turned to Mr. Yogachandran and asked him "Do you intend using this Court of Law as your platform". Of what use are platforms to us? We never asked anybody to provide us platforms. It was you who brought us to this box and heaped accusations on us. When you not only throw lies at us but try to make out that we are liars, we merely came out with the truth. That is all we did and that does not make us stage performers. Truth does not require platforms and spotlights. Truth has its own glory. No power on earth can suppress it for ever.

"We are not lovers of violence nor victims of mental disorders. We are honest fighters belonging to an organization that is struggling to liberate a people. To those noble souls who keep on prating "terrorism, terrorism" we have something to say. Did you not get frightened of terrorism when hundreds of Tamils were massacred in cold blood, when racist hate spread like fire in this country of yours? Did terrorism mean nothing to you when Tamil women were raped? When cultural treasures were set on fire? When hundreds and hundreds of Tamil homes were looted? Why in 1977 alone 400 Tamils lost their lives reddening the sky above with their splattered blood; Did you not see any terrorism when that happened? Is it only when a few policemen are killed in Tamil Eelam and a few millions of bank money are robbed that terrorism strikes you in the face? Did your thoughts and feelings become deadened when it concerned Tamil lives and Tamil property or are your minds unable to conceive the very idea of Tamil suffering?

'WE HAVE A GLOBAL VISION'

You must not run away with the thought that our sole objective is to establish a Tamil Eelam. Tamil Eelam remains certainly an objective because we have learnt through bitter experience over the past several years that it is only by establishing a State of Tamil Eelam can the Tamils live with self-respect. But our vision is broader than that. **Our vision is global. Wherever there is oppression, wherever there is violation of human dignity, whether in Africa or in Latin America, we are prepared to link hands with the oppressed and the under-dog.** When our vision is so global how can it fail to take into account the future good of the Sinhalese, our co-nationals in this country. May I mention this? We will not stop at raising our voices on behalf of those people. There is nothing that prevents two neighbouring nations living in co-operation. Even nations with differing policies get together for the common economic good and for the purpose of common security. Does that mean that those nations give up their distinctive characteristics or sovereignty?

OUR VICTORY IS ASSURED

"We have to safeguard the collective good of this island. If at any time in the future a common organization has to emerge which could withstand the political and economic onslaught made against the third world countries particularly in the areas surrounding the Indian sub-continent, you can be sure that Tamil Eelam will rise to the occasion and lend its might in all co-operative endeavours that will raise the quality of life of the people in this part of the world."

CONTD. ON PAGE 16

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

TULF MPs. — STAGGERED RESIGNATIONS?

When the Sri Lankan government announced the extension of the life of the present parliament for six more years following the referendum, the leadership of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) announced that all its Members of Parliament would tender their resignations in July this year and seek a fresh mandate from the people.

However, there seems to have been some change in the thinking of the TULF leadership. It would seem that, after all, the TULF MPs would not resign en-bloc as previously announced. Instead, the sixteen MPs belonging to the TULF will resign in groups of three which will force the government to hold by-elections to the vacant constituencies periodically. This proposal will come before the TULF's Annual Convention which is to take place in May this year.

It is realiably learnt that, while the leadership favours the "staggered resignatioin" proposal, the younger and more militant sections of the party are pressing for the entire contingent of TULF MPs to resign in July this year.

YOUTH HELD IN DETENTION ESCAPES

Thambipillai Maheswaran, a youth held in detention under the Terrorism Act at the high security Army Camp at Panagoda, Colombo escaped from custody on April 1st.

This daring escape has baffled Army Intelligence which suspects that there has been connivance between Maheswaran and some unknown army personnel at the camp.

Maheswaran (28) was a final year student in Engineering at Queen Mary's College of the London University and was taken into custody when he visited Sri Lanka on vacation on June 19th 1981.

It is reliably learnt that four army officers have been suspended from duty following Maheswaran's escape.

Hundreds of police and army men are participating in an intense search for Maheswaran.

NIRMALA APPLIES FOR BAIL

Mrs. Nirmala Nithiananthan, who is facing charges under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, has made application to the Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka seeking bail. In the petition of appeal, Nirmala states that she is subjected to discriminatory conditions to which other female remand prisoners are not subjected and that she is suffering from chronic bronchial asthma.

When the application came up on April 4th before the Court of Appeal, the Attorney General requested four weeks to file objections to the application for bail. The Court has given time until May 17th when the hearing of the application is expected to take place.

PANDATERRUPU CHURCH — 150 YEARS OLD

The JDCSI Church at Pandaterrupu in the northern Tamil District of Jaffna in Sri Lanka celebrated its 150th anniversary on the 14th and 15th of January this year. Mr. V. Yogeswaran, M.P. for Jaffna, was the Chief Guest at the Public Meeting and Cultural Programme on 14.1.83. Speaking on the contribution of American Missionaries to the life of the community in the Northern part of the country, Mr. Yogeswaran said that the Christian Missionaries who came to this island more than 150 years ago did not merely bring with them their religious seal but were inspired by an earnest desire to improve the lot of the people by establishing schools and hospitals, which in those early days were a great boon to the people.

INTER-CITY EXPRESS

The Inter-City Express from Colombo Fort was inaugurated in March 7. The Express train, plying from Colombo Fort to Kankesanthurai will have only two halts at Anuradhapura and Jaffna and will take six hou and ten minutes.

A one-way ticket costs Rs. 74-50 and a luxury seat Rs. 151-90. But Railway warrants could be used. Departure from Colombo will be on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 5.45 a.m. and from Kankesanthurai on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 5.40 a.m.

seats will have to be booked ten days in advance in Colombo or Anuradhapura or Jaffna.

MR. K. SATCHITHANAN THAN

Jaffna College has sustained a great loss in the passing away on 28-2-83 of a member of the Staff, greatly loved and esteemed by students and colleagues alike, Mr. Kanagasabey Satchithananthan who was recently promoted District Scout Commissioner of Jaffna.

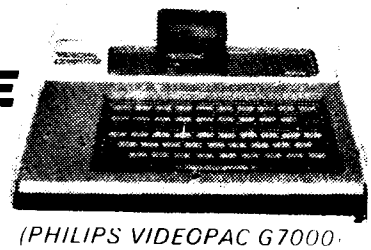
Mr. Satchithananthan left for the Third jamboree of the Scout movement at Anuradhapura a day later than scheduled because of indisposition. His death took place at Anuradhapra while he was participating enthusiastically at the Scout jamboree at Harischandra Park.

First Tamil VIDEO Shop
From The Pioneers

Large Library of Original
Tamil, Hindi and Singala Films.

○ *Also Video Games for children* ○

FOR HIRE OR SALE



(PHILIPS VIDEOPAC G7000)

We specialise in mail orders. Overseas customers are welcome. Special discount for large orders.

TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN FILM ENTERTAINMENT

We now give you the ultimate home entertainment

LATE OPENING, FOR FURTHER DETAILS & LIST OF FILMS, PLEASE RING

P. SRINIVASAN 01-679 1953 (HOME 01-656 0396)

TAMIL FILM VIDEO CLUB, 1524 LONDON ROAD
LONDON S.W.16

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COOPERATE WITH J.R. AND PERISH

Having read the lengthy article of Mr. T. Somasekaram in the last two issues of Tamil Times, there are a few comments I wish to make.

I fully agree with the writer when he says that Mr. Chelvanayagam was the true leader of the Tamils, but what does he mean when he uses the cliche that Chelvanayakam showed that Tamils did not live by portfolios? Has he forgotten that it was when Mr. Chelvanayakam was leader of the Federal Party that Mr. Thiruchelvam, a stalwart of the Federal party, was appointed to Dudley Senanayake's 1965 Cabinet?

Regarding the massive vote by the so-called "unenlightened" Tamils of the North in favour of Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, it is clear that Mr. Somasekaram has not studied the details of the regional vote. If he had, he would have seen that it was the farming areas which plumped for Mr. Kobbekaduwa. The reason for their choice which the writer regards as inexplicable is that during the time Mrs. Bandaranayaka's govt. the farmers benefited by her almost total banning of foodstuffs which could be produced at home and as Mr. Somasekaram rightly says Mr. Kobbekaduwa was the front man of Mrs. Bandaranayaka. On the other hand, since Mr. Jayawardena came to power he has consistently undercut the farmers, particularly those in the Jaffna peninsula by importing onions and chillies — the principal crops of the Jaffna farmer — especially at times when these same products are being harvested in the North. Does he then find it surprising that the voters in the Jaffna District chose the S.L.F.P. man?

The known name in low-cost fares
We put you in touch with the world
● Sri Lanka * Australia
* Europe * Singapore * U.S.A.
* India * Mauritius

Contact:

RITA SANDRASAGARA
5 CAVENDISH AVE.
LONDON N3 3QP
Tel: 01-346 5044

Mr. Somasekaram seems to advocate Tamil cooperation with Mr. Jayawardena's govt. Is his memory so short. This same Mr. Jayawardena led a procession of Bhikkus to Kandy protesting against the B-C pact, as a result of which this pact had to be torn up. Again after Mr. Jayawardena's victory in the 1977 elections, and fuelled by his war cry "If the Tamils want war they'll have war, if they want peace they'll have peace", violence even worse than the horrors of 1958 was perpetrated on the Tamils, particularly on those unfortunate enough to live outside the Northern and Eastern provinces. Instead of getting the police and armed forces to protect the victims (as did happen in 1958), Mr. Jayawardena was happy to fiddle while rioters including sections of the police and army went on a rampage for over a month maiming and killing innocent Tamils including women and children, burning the houses and buildings of Tamils, destroying Hindu Temples and so on. The destruction of the Jaffna library, the razing to the ground of the Jaffna M.P.'s house, the burning of the main markets, and the damage done to the Eelanadu printing press are merely extreme cases of what has been happening under the benevolent eye of Mr. Jayawardena's Dharmista Govt. Worst of all is the so-called "Prevention of terrorism act" which was passed by this same Dharmista Govt. This act has endowed the police and army the power of entering and searching any building including private dwelling places and detaining for indefinite period anyone, even women and religious persons. They can also detain anyone for failure to report activities of so-called "Terrorists". Those detained under this act are generally tortured, not allowed access to a lawyer, not charged nor brought before a court for a long period of time.

Bearing all these humiliations in mind, can Mr. Somasekaram seriously expect any self-respecting Tamil to join hands with Mr. Jayawardena and his band of merry men.

Finally Mr. Somasekeram's well intended exhortation asking Tamil parents abroad to impart and instruct Tamil culture and language is in my opinion of not much value, for most of these children may never return to settle down in Sri Lanka or Eelam. On the other hand all Tamils living in relative comfort abroad have a positive contribution to make. They should provide what resources they can, to relieve the immediate suffering and hardship of the unfortunate Tamils affected by the periodic violence resulting from racial riots. Funds could be made available for settlement of refugees and for development projects which would benefit the community.

A united Sri Lanka where both Tamils and Sinhalese can lead self respecting lives in a peaceful and economically successful situation is the best solution but this, alas, seems to be a long way off or a far away dream.

T. THAMPU (BROMLEY)

NO REFUGE

The Government of India has approached Sri Lanka not to let the self-styled leader of 'Khalistan', Mr Jagit Singh Chauhan, enter the island. The Sri Lanka Government has promised to do the needful while reminding India gently that it should bear in mind its reciprocal obligation not to let the Tamil militants engaged in acts of violence seek sanctuary on its territory for evading arrest.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

SCOT — A PROFILE

BY C. KATHIRESAN
PRESIDENT, SCOT

SCOT is the abbreviated version of the full name — **STANDING COMMITTEE OF TAMIL SPEAKING PEOPLE.** Admittedly, it is an imposing name and suggests a wider range of activities than what SCOT is actually engaged in. It may therefore be appropriate, to explain by way of introduction that this all embracing title was determined as much by the circumstances that led to the formation of the organisation, as by the people who formed it in 1977.

In August that year, the problems of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka were highlighted, not for the first time, by the wave of violence directed against them, resulting in loss of lives and property. More as an expression of spontaneous solidarity, than as an act of cold reason, it was envisaged that one single organisation could coordinate the efforts of several existing Tamil expatriate groups in the UK, which were committed to assisting, in one way or another, the long suffering Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Predictably, these hopes proved unworkable in practice, because of the inherent difficulty of translating into any coherent programme of action, the diverse aspirations of those who constituted this loose confederation. Quite clearly, the need was to consolidate the organisation and make it a viable mechanism for effective work. To do this, it had to focus its efforts on specific areas, which not only attracted the broadest consensus, and by implication, the least contention, but also offered a practical contribution towards resolving some of the problems that faced the community.

OBJECTIVES

SCOT recognised that one area of work for which support from Tamil expatriates would not only be readily forthcoming, but actually meaningful to those who received it — was the **relief of poverty.** The approach to this problem involved applying to the Tamil areas, the principles that govern the more enlightened response to the general problem of poverty throughout the Third World. This response accepts that any attempt to relieve poverty should be so designed as to stimulate the potential of the community to generate wealth through its own efforts rather than meet its immediate consumer needs. This is particularly apt in the context of the problems facing us, which is, that of a community frustrated by stagnant standards of living resulting largely from discriminatory policies of succesive governments since 1948. The problem is compounded by our own apathy and lack of resolve to counter it with an alternative strategy. **SCOT provides the focal point for those who believe that an alternative strategy is available, and needs to be developed through a revitalising movement, which will transform the community from one that consumes resources to one that generates and conserves it.** This is obviously a long-term process and the scale of efforts to bring this about would vary from those which require massive funds which only the government can provide, to those modest but effective programmes which voluntary organisations like ours can initiate. To this end, we committed ourselves to a set of guidelines which determine our support for specific projects. These include:—

a) the provision or maintenance of basic infrastructure for agricultural, industrial, fishing, community development and other similar ventures, which will widen the economic base of the community;
b) the introduction of appropriate technology, where its impact would be to enhance the productive capacity of the community without prejudice to the vital need to preserve avenues of employment;
c) the teaching of new skills or revival of traditional skills;
d) to conserve or maximise as appropriate the natural resources available to the community.

PROJECTS

These are appropriately discussed under three broad categories:—

1) the initial years;
2) ad-hoc assistance to meet special needs;
3) current projects supported on the basis of the above guidelines.

1. THE INITIAL YEARS

In the years up to 1980, SCOT support was understandably directed towards the resettlement of those who were displaced by the communal disturbances of 1977.

KALLARU

The Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation (TRRO) launched several re-settlement programmes of which the one at Kallaru in the Cheddikulam area was one of the largest. We participated in this programme by contributing £2,500 towards meeting the basic infrastructure costs to settle 60 families.

CONTD. ON PAGE 9

ANGLO ASIAN TRAVEL LTD
TRAVEL & FREIGHT CONSULTANTS
17 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD,
LONDON W.1.

TELEPHONE:
01-580 8564
01-580 8565
01-580 8566

SPECIAL LOW COST FARES
London-Colombo-London
London-Colombo-Singapore-Colombo-London
Lon-Cmb-Bangkok-Hongkong-Cmb-Lon
Lon-Cmb-Madras-Cmb-Lon
Lon-Cmb-Jakarta-Cmb-Lon

- MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS NOW -
☆ *NO DEPOSITS REQUIRED* ☆

Evenings and Weekends call;-

RANI KASINATHAN. . . . 01-868 0161
SESHI THIRUMALAI 01-800 9898
HARRY SEEVARATNAM. . . 01-445 9101
GEORGE MARIATHASAN. . . 01-449 2018

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 8

ODDISUDAN

The Citizen Committee of Jaffna undertook the settlement of 50 families, mostly from the plantation areas, on land which was donated by well wishers. We provided £2,500 to meet the cost of a second hand tractor and five water pumps. HUDEC — a charity based at the Bishop's House Jaffna is currently administering this settlement.

KANNADDY

A group of young men who returned home after education in the UK, launched this experiment in communal farming. We supported this group by funding the purchase of seed material, fertiliser and other initial expenses connected with the first cultivation season.

PALAMODDAI

Provided Gandhiyam Society £1,000 to initiate a training programme for youth in intensive agriculture on one acre plots.

KNITTING MACHINES

20 knitting machines at a cost of £2,500 were purchased and donated to the TRRO to assist in the rehabilitation of young women in the Rugam area (Eastern Province). These machines are now being taken over by a Rural Development Society in the Vaddukoddai area, where it will form the nucleus of a cottage industry.

2. AD HOC ASSISTANCE

SCOT has responded to several requests for assistance which have been dealt with on a 'one off' basis:

— Largely through the cooperation of Tamil expatriate groups in the USA, we provided the Jaffna Teaching Hospital with a Cardiac Resuscitation Unit.
— Contributed £650 for relief of cyclone victims in 1978.
— Sponsored an Eye Camp at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai through the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. 23 operations were performed to restore sight, and 302 patients were treated for various eye disorders.
— About £2,000 has been collected to provide the Jaffna Public Library with equipment to be chosen by the Library authorities.
— Donations to orphanages in Trincomalee and Jaffna.

3 CURRENT PROJECTS

TUBE WELLS

This project (named after the late Charles Kanagasundaram — a former Vice President of SCOT) is basically designed to expand the existing irrigation facilities available to farmers, by constructing tube wells. We have provided Ootru Organisation with £7,000 to cover the purchase of two drilling rigs required to carry out this work. The actual work of constructing the tube wells will be carried out by a private firm who will lease the equipment from Ootru, and charge the farmers a commercial rate for the work undertaken.

The lease income accruing to Ootru, will be placed in a special fund to meet the requirements of future SCOT projects, and subsidies for the poorer farmers who cannot afford the full cost of a tube well.

KADAL ADDAI

Vankalai, an impoverished fishing village in the Mannar area is the base for this project. SCOT will provide £2,500 for the purchase of boats, nets and other items of capital equipment, to enable the fishermen of the area to launch a co-operative venture involving the fishing and marketing of Kadal Addai (Beche de Mere) a valuable export commodity. The object of the project is to raise the standards of living in the village, by securing for it the benefits of this profitable venture, which traditionally accrue to the 'fish mudalali' who owns the boats and equipment.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AMONG PLANTATION WORKERS

This is a programme to create social awareness among the plantation workers, through a scheme of informal education and service oriented action. The programme which will be launched in three centres Avisawella, Ratnapura and Ragala, will cover Environmental Studies, Health Education and Labour Laws and is phased over three years. SCOT has agreed to provide funds for carrying out this programme in the initial year, and expects to review the position at the end of that year.

SHRI SHANMUGA TRUST — TYPING SKILLS

This trust which has been in existence for over 50 years administers schools and orphanages in Trincomelee. They propose to train young orphan girls in typing skills and require 4 English and 2 Tamil typewriters. SCOT is considering providing these.

RESOURCE SURVEY OF TAMIL AREAS

SCOT has undertaken to support a Reconnaisance Survey of Agricultural and Agro based Industries as a preliminary step to finance a more comprehensive survey. This is considered essential to attract capital investment into the Tamil areas.

ORGANISATION

SCOT is a registered charity. Not purely for this reason, **its objectives are strictly non-political.** Membership is open to any person who agrees with the objectives and also pays a **minimum** annual subscription of £24 (full time students £12).

The organisational structure reflects SCOT's strong commitment to the principle of accountability, not merely to the Charity Commission, which, of course, is mandatory, but more importantly to its members. The Constitution provides for members to participate actively in the administration of SCOT through a General Council of 51 elected from among them. Projects involving such sums in excess of £500 require the approval of the General Council, which meets at least quarterly. The day to day direction of SCOT is entrusted to a 19 strong Executive Committee which includes the office bearers and four trustees.

The office-bearers, trustees, members of the Executive Committee and the General Council are elected at the Annual General Meeting in October/November at which the audited accounts are also presented and approved.

THE FUTURE

SCOT is firmly poised to continue its funding of work programmes which have relevance to the long term needs of the community. The success or otherwise of these efforts in the foreseeable future will depend largely on the developments in the local scene in Sri Lanka and the people and groups of people there with whom we work. It will also depend to some extent on our own ability to identify areas of work which must have priority over others and then to induce these local groups to formulate them in terms of realistic, attainable and quantifiable action plans. In the past this has not always been easy because of the constraints which apply to local groups, such as weak organisation struc-

CONTD. ON PAGE 20

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE EELAM STRUGGLE: A REVIEW

by Sachi Sri Kantha
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA.

This article attempts to review, in brief, the attempts and successes made towards the Internationalisation of the Eelam Struggle since 1975. First, as a preview, the origins of a cry for a separate state are traced, followed by detailed examination of the strategies and tactics adopted by the various supporters of the cause of Eelam. Finally, suggestions are made to improve the position by means of a further course of action in this direction.

ORIGIN OF THE DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE TAMIL STATE

In October 1972, the Leader of the then Federal Party, S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, resigned his parliamentary seat of the Kankesanthurai constituency to express Tamil opposition to the 1972 Republican Constitution of Sri Lanka. The United Front coalition government, headed by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, fixed the by-election date for 6th February 1975, after maliciously refusing to hold the election for nearly two years. Chelvanayakam, speaking at a meeting held at Mallakam, in support of his candidature, said,

"I will demand a separate state for the Tamils in the National State Assembly as soon as I get there after being re-elected for the Kankesanthurai seat."

(Ceylon Daily Mirror, 30th Jan. 1975)

Chelvanayakam won that by-election with a massive majority of 16,470, polling 25,927 votes against the Government-sponsored Communist Party candidate, who managed to get 9,457 votes.

An analysis of this by-election which appeared in *Tribune* shed some light on the origins of the cry for a separate State of Eelam.

'. . . From this frustration born of injured self respect and dignity has come the cry for a separate state among a section of the youth and unless serious note is taken of it and something is done to remove the frustration this separatist sentiment is bound to grow day by day. Chelvanayakam does not believe in separation. The call for a separate state had first come from Suntharalingam and it was later weakly echoed by TC's G.G Ponnambalam. The FP had fought this separatism with its federalism. But now the TUF has an open mind on federalism as well as a separated state, but has concentrated on certain minimum demands to be incorporated in the Constitution. It is the total failure of the Government to respond to this that has created frustration verging on despair among the Tamils.

There is no doubt that it was to appeal to this frustrated youth harbouring illusion of separatism that Chelvanayakam made one speech during the last days of the election campaign stating that he will make a demand for a separate state for the Tamils in the National State Assembly as soon as he got there as the representative for the KKS seat. If a separatist cry does become a reality among the Tamils, impartial history will lay the blame for this at the feet of the United Front which had tried to streamline, extend and intensify the patronage-politics and the intimidatory tactics started by the UNP and later followed by the SLFP — without in anyway resolving the grievances of the Tamils . . ."

'Tribune, Vol.19, No.40, 15th Feb. 1975)

The TUF holding its first National Convention at Vaddukoddai on 14th May 1976, under the chairmanship of Chelvanayakam, adopted the 'Eelam Resolution' unanimously, and redesignated its name into Tamil United Liberation Front) (TULF). A proposal brought forward by the late Mr. M. Thiruchelvam, Q.C., to adopt the name of Tamil Liberation Organisation (TLO) — on the lines of the PLO — was defeated.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

Internationalisation of the Eelam struggle had been achieved by means of various strategies. For convenience, this can be classified under the following headings:

1. Protest, Agitation and Demonstration.
   a) by expatriate Tamils alone.
   b) in collaboration with International Groups, such as International Spartacist Tendency.
   c) by other nationals
2. Political Lobbying.
   a) in the Legislatures of other countries and states.
   b) attracting the attention of International Organisations.
3. Press and journal coverage at International level.
   a) Cover stories in popular journals and contributions by its readers in the form of letters.
   b) Academic contribution in scholarly journals.
   c) Descriptions in Reference source books, Encyclopaedias and Geographic Atlases.
4. Publicity.

Let us consider how each of these strategies has contributed its share to Eelam awareness.

1. PROTEST, AGITATION AND DEMONSTRATION

a) By expatriate Tamils alone.

The first instance of protest and demonstration carried out in an international setting for the Eelam cause was made in Britain in 1975, during the First World Cup Cricket Tournament, in which a Sri Lankan team also took part. This demonstration by the London-based expatriate Sri Lankan Tamils, in the cricket fields of Birmingham and London, was least expected by the host country, and the Sri Lankan government was also placed in an embarrassing situation.

The Tamils who carried out the demonstration brought to the limelight that, even in sports, Tamils and other minorities in Sri Lanka face racial discrimination.

b) By expatriate Tamils, in collaboration with International Groups

Spartacist League is one of the International political groups which had provided support for the Tamil cause. Within a span of two years, Spartacist League had campagined in the form of demonstrations, in different cities, to protest against the murderous repression of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

- at New York (USA) on Aug. 20, 1980: 75 supporters of Spartacist League/USA demonstrated outside the Sri Lanka Mission to the United Nations. (*Workers Vanguard*, 5th Sept. 1980).
- at London (Britain) on Aug. 30, 1980: 25 supporters of Spartacist League/Britain demonstrated outside

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. ON PAGE 11

CONTD. FROM PAGE 10

the Ceylon Tea Centre. (*Workers Vanguard*, 5th Sept. 1980).

- at Bonn (W. Germany) in June 1981: 2000 Tamils, in collaboration with Trotzkistiche Liga Deutschlands, demonstrated against the murderous repression in Sri Lanka. (*Spartacist*, Summer 1981, no.31-32).
- at New York (USA) on June 8, 1981: 100 supporters demonstrated outside the Sri Lankan Mission to the United Nations to protest against the murderous attacks on the Tamils. (*Workers Vanguard*, 19th June 1981).
- at West Berlin (Germany) on July 24, 1981: 350 supporters rallied chanting 'Political asylum for the Tamil refugees; stop the deportation of Tamils', to protest against the government's deportation of Tamil refugees who had fled from Sri Lanka to West Berlin. (*Workers Vanguard*, 14th Aug. 1981).
- at Melbourne (Australia) on Sept.1, 1981: Supporters of Spartacist League/Australia and New Zealand, demonstrated to protest against the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, when the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference was in session.

' other Nationals

Support, both moral and political, had come from Indians living in Tamil Nadu mainly, and recent developments reveal that the North Indians also sympathise with the cause of the Tamils, though not fully.

- at Madras (India) on Aug.19, 1981: Indian students from various city colleges, carrying placards and shouting slogans, went in a procession, protesting against the 'violence unleashed on Tamils in Sri Lanka'. They marched to the office of the Deputy High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Madras and presented a memorandum. (*Hindu*, Aug.20, 1981).
- in Tamil Nadu (India) on Sept.12, 1981: The Tamil Nadu State Government of India sponsored a 'hartal' to express the resentment of the people of Tamil Nadu against the atrocities committed on the Tamils in Sri Lanka. (*Hindu*, Sept.12, 1981).
- at Bombay (India) on Nov.14, 1981: An attack on the Sri Lankan Trade Commissioner's Office in Bombay by the 'Azad Hind Sena', as a demonstration against ill-treatment of Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka. (*Statesman*, Nov. 16, 1981).

2. POLITICAL LOBBYING

a) In the Legislatures of other countries and states.

i. Massachusetts State Assembly's 'Eelam Resolution' of 1979:

The 'Eelam Resolution' passed on the 9th of May 1979, in the House of Representatives of Massachusetts State of USA, created a degree of apprehension among the Sri Lankan government leaders.

The Sinhalese politicians and the biassed press reacted angrily towards the House of Representatives of Massachusetts. A series of articles, editorials and cartoons, appeared in the nationalised press of Sri Lanka, ridiculing the Americans in general. This is illustrated, for example, in a verse captioned 'Eelam — here we come', which appeared in the *Sunday Observer* of 24th June 1979.

'Eelam, Eelam here we come
From the land of stars and stripes
Where fullest freedom is for some
Not Niggers or the Injun Tribes.

Indian braves we killed for fun
Took their land and built Reserves
Taught the bastards with the gun
Freedom only White preserves.

Lesser breeds without the Law,
Know ye, we alone decide
When it serves us we are raw
Others' lands we can divide.

Boston Bay or Buffalo Bill
Crude and bossy Massachusett
We are raring for a kill
Little Lanka we will get.

In Trinco we'll have gun boats, subs
It will be our vast shipyard
Then we'll tame the Tiger cubs
And to hell with Tamil Nad.'

ii. Action of British MPs in 1981:

In 1981, the plight of Sri Lanka Tamils was taken up by the British MPs in a grand way, and J.R. Jayewardene was at the receiving end of 'a sheaf of telegrams and letters'. How this campaign had irritated the President of Sri Lanka was reflected in the 'unstatesmanly' speech he made at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar, held in Colombo in June 1981.

'. . . There is one district in our country in which we are having some trouble with terrorists. I am mentioning this because I am receiving a sheaf of telegrams and letters — all seem to be composed in similar language, similar figures, similar names — sent up especially from the British House of Commons.

. . . These telegrams and letters accuse this Government of imprisoning people without trial, even murdering them. I cannot release people without trial, who have been put into jail under the normal laws of the land. If I may say so, they are talking through their hat. When you meet your colleagues, please tell them that I said so."

(New Internationalist, Nov.1981)

But, it did not take much time for the world to know who was talking through their hats. The President of Sri Lanka had to eat his own words, barely three months later, when ethnic violence erupted in Aug.1981. While delivering his address at the Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Planters Society, in Colombo, J.R. Jayewardene speaking in a wiser mood accepted:—

'A few days ago in several estates in the Ratnapura district, estate labourers had been subjected to violence and merciless harassment by . . . I am ashamed to say . . . people of my own race . . . I am ashamed that this sort of thing should have happened in this country during my government . . .'

(Ceylon Daily News, Sept.21, 1981).

iii. In India

When the 1981 ethnic violence against Tamils occurred in Sri Lanka, the Tamil Nadu State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution expressing their sympathy towards the Tamils of Sri Lanka. To quote from *The Hindu* of Aug.22, 1981,

'The Finance Minister and Leader of the House, V.R. Nedunchezhian, who moved the resolution, and the Leader of the Opposition, M. Karunanidhi, and other party leaders, who extended unqualified support to it, said they did recognise the dictum that no country had the right to interfere with the internal affairs of another nation. Where human and minority rights were at stake, everyone had a right to demand justice, they contended.'

And the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.G.

CONTD. ON PAGE 12

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 11

Ramachandran, proposing a Government-sponsored one day 'hartal' in support of Sri Lanka Tamils, asserted:

'Let us not start debating whether or not a government sponsored hartal had taken place in Tamil Nadu before. Now is the time for us to show our solidarity with Tamils living elsewhere and such a demonstration will be a source of strength to the Prime Minister (Indira Gandhi) as she moves to seek justice for Tamils in Sri Lanka.'

***(Hindu,* Aug.22, 1981)**

b) Attracting the Attention of International Organisations

The Tamil problem had so far attracted the attention of two international organisations:

i. Amnesty International Mission

The Amnesty International Mission, consisting of the delegates, Louis Blom-Cooper, Q.C., a British lawyer, and Yvonne Terlingen, a Dutch member of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, visited Sri Lanka during 9-15 January 1975; and their report was published in May 1976. (**Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Sri Lanka, 9-15 January 1975.** Amnesty International Publications, 50pp.) This report contains references to 42 Tamil youth prisoners who were detained without trial under the Emergency Regulations by the Sirimavo Bandaranaike regime. The subsequent Annual Reports of Amnesty International, from the year 1976, contain details of Tamils languishing in the prisons of Sri Lanka, for political reasons.

ii. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

In April 1977, an analysis of the communal problem in Sri Lanka was released by the International Commission of Jurists. The inference made by this non-political organisation, having consultative status with the United Nations, was as follows:—

'It would be a pity if Sri Lanka's leadership waited for bombs to explode and for prisons to fill up again, before conceding that the Tamils need reassurance that they have a place in the future of the island.'

(Ceylon Daily News, April 8, 1977).

3. PRESS AND JOURNAL COVERAGE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

a) Cover-stories in popular journals and other contributions

Almost six years ago, a popular weekly **Himmat**,edited by Rajmohan Gandhi (published from Bombay), had a cover story written with the captioned, "Will Sri Lanka split?". (**Himmat**, Aug. 6, 1976).

A **National Geographic** cover story on Sri Lanka, appearing in January 1979, contained some pertinent references about Tamil separatism. Though Sivakumaran of Urumpiray had been labelled by the Sri Lankan government as a bank-robber and criminal, the **National Geographic** captioned him as a 'leader', and a photograph of his vandalised statue also appeared in the issue with a descriptive note:—

'. . . Prospering under British rule, the Tamils feel discriminated against by the Sinhalese. When Pon Sivakumaran, a spokesman for young separatists in Jaffna, the Tamils' major city, took his life in 1974, to avoid arrest, followers raised his statue atop the rising sun of Tamil nationhood. Then in August 1977 the statue was toppled during sporadic violence that erupted after a national election. . .'

(R.P. Jordan, 'Sri Lanka: Time of Testing' National Geographic, vol.155, no.1, Jan.1979)

Another cover-story by Venkat Narayan, with the caption, 'Sri Lanka: A Tamil Nightmare', providing an in-depth reporting about the 1981 racial-riots, appeared in the prestigious **India Today** of Sept.1, 1981.

In addition to the appearance of cover stories, another welcoming feature is that, whenever there happens to be a distortion of data or wilful suppression of the true situation faced by the Tamils, some enlightened readers contribute their support for the Eelam cause, by writing letters to the Editor, criticising the authorities of Sri Lankan government.

For example, the two letters given below illustrates this point lucidly. In 1978, M.R.R. Hoole of Singapore, writing in **Himmat** (June 30, 1978) observed.

'. . . According to the Tamil Refugees Relief Organisation (TRRO) which handled 14,000 refugees during the violence of August 1977, there were then a minimum of 300 deaths, 1,500 cases of arson and 4,000 cases of looting. Mr. Jayewardene and his Government now pretend that this did not happen.

. . . Much has been said about the Israeli occupied West Bank. Yet it was heartening to note that the West Bank Governor has been dismissed by the Israeli Government over a tear gas attack on an Arab school. This was following a report in the Ha'aretz by a reporter who did not trust the official version. In Ceylon, no such reporter would have existed. Unlike Mr. Begin, Mr. Jayewardene is acclaimed by the world press establishment as a statesman. But in Ceylon the offending police officers not only remain at large but they have been reinforced with additional men and powers.'

And last year, P. Padmanabhan of Somanur, India, writing in **India Today** (Oct.15, 1981), commented,

'In a tone of self-justification, President Jayewardene holds the 'terrorists . . . since long associated with the TULF', responsible, instead of the Sinhalese, for the murder, loot, arson and rape of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Many more British officers and soldiers have b killed by the IRA in Northern Ireland than the 20 police officials allegedly killed by the Tamil 'terrorists' in Sri Lanka. Has the British Army, in retaliation, looted the houses and shops of the Irish and burnt down markets and places of public importance, like libraries? Perhaps therein lies the difference between civilised and uncivilised methods of curbing peoples' movement.

President Jayewardene says that he plans to ban the Eelam group that is now in Tamil Nadu. How? In the manner that South Africa is trying to eliminate the SWAPO sanctuaries in Angola? He is welcome to try.'

The comparison of the existing situation in Sri Lanka, to that of most-talked about sensitive regions for atrocities in the world, such as Ireland and the West Bank in the Middle East, highlights the precarious plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

b) Academic contribution in scholarly journals.

One of the authorities on contemporary Sri Lanka politics is Robert Kearney. He published a paper on 'Language and the rise of Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka' in 1978 (**Asian Survey**, vol.18, no.5, 521-534). An Indian scholar, Urmila Phadnis, had presented a

CONTD. ON PAGE 17

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

STATELESS IN SRI LANKA

The Governments of India and Sri Lanka continue to be in touch with each other in respect of the residual problem of stateless persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka after the expiry of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement on 30 October 1981. This was stated in a written reply in the Lok Sabha of the Indian Parliament by the Minister of State for External Affairs. He added that the two Governments hoped to resolve the problem in accordance with the wishes of the persons concerned.

The whole statement is in contradiction of the report of March 10 by the Press Trust of India (PTI) of a press conference held by the President of Sri Lanka, Mr J.R. Jayawardene, at New Delhi. The President was reported to have said that the question of the stateless people of Indian origin in the island was for his own (Sri Lanka) Government to decide rather than an issue for discussion with the Indian leaders. He was reported to have added that he was going to discuss with his Cabinet how to settle a problem that was 'human' and concerned people who could not just be shipped away.

If what the Minister said in the Lok Sabha is correct, then what the Sri Lankan President is reported to have said at the press conference was only an image building exercise trying to hoodwink world opinion with the presentation of a "person imbued with humanitarian principles" image, while the reality is otherwise. It is malevolently reactionary and totally unacceptable that the two Governments continue to deal with this problem without any consultation with the people concerned or even dissemination of appropriate information. Just because some Sinhalese find it difficult to accept their presence, the Indian Government should not agree to the transport of Tamil estate workers of Sri Lanka from Urugala to Orissa or from Kegalle to the jungles of Kerala. The sufferings of those carted like merchandise earlier are still to be fully documented.

PADMA BHUSHAN ATTENBOROUGH

Richard Attenborough, Producer-director of "Gandhi" was awarded the title of Padma Bhushan, by India. He was one of sixteen persons to receive that title in the 1983 National Awards presented by the President.

The highest civilian award "Bharat Ratna" was conferred posthumously on Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

ADI DRAVIDAR DAY

Harijans are part and parcel of Hindu society; all are children of God and each had divinity; no one was inferior, said His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal of Kanchi Kamakoti Pestam, addressing the Hindu Religious Art and Cultural Festival celebrating Adi Dravidar Day.

His Holiness added that all distinctions and discriminations in the society today were of comparatively recent origin and was the result of various factors including ignorance and lack of sincere and deep devotion to God.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Mr M.G. Ramachandran appealed to His Holiness the Sangaracharyar to convene a meeting of heads of the different Matts to discuss and devise measures to remove the evils in Hindu society, to unite the people and strengthen Hinduism. Other speakers stressed the need for eradication of evils like dowry system and un-

CONTD. ON PAGE 15

RATHBONE TRAVELS

CHOICE AVAILABLE FROM A WIDE SELECTION OF FLIGHTS TO ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

RATHBONE TRAVELS
55 RATHBONE PLACE,
LONDON W.1.

(Nearest Tube Station: Tottenham Court Road)

TELEPHONE: 01-636 2391 (7 Lines)

WE ARE A MEMBER OF I.A.T.A.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

ABOUT PEOPLE

MAHADEVA MEMORIAL MEETING

The popularity of Rajasingham Mahadeva and the love and affection and esteem in which he was held by his relatives and friends were clearly manifest at the meeting held in his memory on April 9th at Tyler's Hall, Kingsbury high School, London NW9. The meeting was organised by SCOT of which the late Mr. Mahadeva was the Secretary at the time of his untimely death.

Over three hundred people attended the meeting which was presided by Mr. C. Kathiresan, Prsident of SCOT.

Many speakers, including Dr. K. Arumugam, Dr. Navaratnam (both ex-presidents of SCOT), Mr. T. Visventhiran, Acting Secretary of SCOT and Mr. R. Sivanantharajah

spoke at the meeting, Mrs. Vasuki Pathmanathan and Mr. Sathasivam sang religious devotional songs befitting the serenity of the occasion.

The speakers recounted the many good and endearing qualities of the late Mr. Mahadeva, his ability as a professional engineer, his role at the Eastern Gas where he was employed at the time of his death, his unassuming and self-effacing character, the great contribution he made to SCOT without much fuss or fanfare, and above all his simple and humorous attitude to life. They described him as a man of great action without much talk, and that his sense of dedication to his fellow man was unquestionable.

In a moving speech in the course of which he broke down into tears several times, Mr. R. Sivanantharajah, a friend of the late Mahadeva from his school days, said, "Mr. Mahadeva was affectionately known to us friends as "Maha". The meaning of the word "Maha". in Tamil language is"great". What foresight Maha's parents must have had giving this name to their son. True to his name, Maha has been to us a great friend, a symbol of utmost sincerity, frankness, humility and justice — irrespective of age, religion or race. One of his most outstanding qualities was his down to earth and practical approach. He was unflinching in his predpredness to help friends."

THE TAMIL YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF U.K. wish to pay tribute to **MR. R. MAHADEVA** who passed away on 11th March 1983. He was of invaluable help to us not just in practical matters (especially in sound systems) but also in his advice over arranging our Variety Shows and Discos. He will be sadly missed by those in the T.Y.A. who turned to him, but the knowledge he has passed on to us will hopefully be used well in future events. May we take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and children.

MR. ANGELO RAJAKARIER (12.7.11-4.3.83)

Mr Angelo Rajakarier of 1 Cleveland Avenue, London S.W.20 died suddenly during morning mass in the Convent Chapel of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart on 4th March 1983. He was born in

Cont. to Page 15

குறைந்த விமானக் கட்டணங்கள்
LOW AIR FARES

INTERLINK offers Sri Lankan and U.K. residents special fares and travel assistance.

WE are one of the largest Sri Lankan agents in the United Kingdom operating in London and with an office at Colombo.

As the agents for Air Lanka, BA, KLM, and UTA, we can satisfy your preferences with a choice of flights.

INTERLINK .....
....**THE DIFFERENCE IS OUR PROFESSIONALISM**

INTERLINK HOLIDAYS LIMITED

18 HANOVER STREET, LONDON W1R 9HG

TEL: RESV. 01-629 9581
ADMIN. 01-493 8361
CABLES: LINKEX LONDON W1
TELEX: 299892 INLINK G

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE

FREIGHT FESTIVAL

LOW PRICES! LOW

Apr.. Only

FREIGHT PRICES

T-CHESTS : £15.00 - Delivered to our Warehouse
S-CASES : £12.00
W-BOXES : £30.00 (10cu ft.)
W-BOXES : £65.00 (25cu ft.)

SHIP NOW!

AIR FREIGHT ONLY £1.50 PER KILOS
FREIGHT REDUCTIONS ON EVERY CONSIGNMENT
CONSIGNMENT OVER 50cu ft., FREIGHT COST ONLY £2.00cu ft.

SPECIAL CONCESSIONS FOR STUDENTS & NURSES
FULL/SHARE CONTAINERS AVAILABLE
ALSO
OPEN TOP CONTAINERS AVAILABLE

FAST FREIGHT FORWARDERS
UNIT 9B, WORTON HALL, INDUSTRIALESTATE,
WORTON ROAD, ISLEWORTH, MIDDX.
TEL: 01-568 3070 (Day) WALTON ON THAMES 45193 (Eve)

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 14

Jaffna, Sri Lanka and after a brilliant career in St Patricks College, Jaffna, and St Josephs College, Colombo, entered University College, Colombo with an Exhibition to follow the English Honours Course. Ill health prevented him from sitting the final examination, but later he gained a good London degree. He took up teaching at St Peters College, Bambalapitiya and during his ten years there came under the benign influence of the then Rector Fr. Nicholas Perera. In February 1946, he was delegated with the task of starting and running the Batticaloa Government College. His excellent work during the three years he was Principal of the college was a landmark gratefully remembered by the people of Batticaloa.

He afterwards became an Educational Administrator and at different times held the posts of Chief Adult Education Officer, Education Officer, Southern Province, and Eastern Province. He retired prematurely from the Education Service in Sri Lanka and came over to U.K. in September 1963. He was Head of English in Richard Chaloner School, Manor Malden, Surrey for several years till his retirement.

Angelo was deeply religious, a devout Roman Catholic and spent a lot of time in Parish activities. He was an indefatigable worker in the Legion of Mary and died while living for the Church.

— V. SANKARALINGAM

CONTD. FROM PAGE 13

touchability.

Hinduism has survived several onslaughts because of its inherent vitality. Hindus wished well of other religions and expected the same consideration and respect from other religions. Hinduism cannot be a happy hunting ground for others. Recent events have shown that to protect the interests of Hindus and Hinduism certain organised activities are necessary.

JUNIOR TIMES

We propose to devote some space in each issue for matters of special interest to Junior readers of Tamil Times. You! Wherever you are, feel free to send in your contributions whether theybe news, short articles, poems, games or puzzles. Space permitting, all suitable material will be published; but please keep your contributions short. We kick off with —

A LOGIC PROBLEM

Sita, Kumar and Ranjit met after a long time. They went into a cafe and ordered an ice cream, a coke and a milk shake and theystarted talking about their home towns Trinco, Badulla and Jaffna. The waiter was busy and had to make three trips to serve them. The boy who ordered ice cream was not served first. The person from Trinco ordered milk shake. Ranjit was served immediately before Sita and she did not come from Badulla. The last person was served coke. Where are Sita, Kumar and Ranjit from: what dideach of them order; and in what order were they served?

Post your answers to "Logic Problem", Tamil Times, P.O. Box 304, London W13 9QN. The first three correct answers drawn from the pool of all correct answers, received before the end of May 83, will be awarded vouchers to the value of two pounds each.

RELIANCE

TRY OUR PRICES ON VIDEO RECORDERS
LOCAL OR EXPORT.

PANASONIC SONY HITACHI JVC TELEFUNKEN AKAI

BACKED BY

ELECTROTECH LIMITED

★ OUR OWN SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT.
★ SERVICING CARRIED OUT BY EX-MANUFACTURER'S ENGINEERS IN OUR OWN WORKSHOPS.

Domestic Repairs Undertaken.
(Vacuum Cleaners, Toasters, Irons, Kettles, etc).
Specialists in Video & TV Conversions.
Extended 3yr & 5yr Warranties available.

67A, SYDENHAM ROAD, LONDON SE26 5UA.

01-778 6563

01-659 4729 24 Hr Answering Service -

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 5

I want to ask this question from my Sinhalese friends would you accept as correct and justified the various acts of oppression that the Tamil people have suffered until now not only in our own land but in various parts of your land as a result of the various acts of terrorism and thuggery? Would you also consider it wrong any attempt on our part to free ourselves from the uncivilized oppression of your government? Or would you consider that this present eyewash under the guise of a trial conducted under special laws incorporated into the normal laws of your country an act of fairness on people like us who are fighting for a noble ideal, an ideal of human freedom? Or does it mean that you don't care whatever happens because the victims are Tamils only? If that is so, our sympathies are with you. **Believe me our freedom is an assured fact some day or other. Once that happens your law books and terrorist laws cannot touch us. Thereafter you will be the sole "beneficiaries" of the very laws that oppress us now.**

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS OF TERRORISM

"Will you urge your government to stop the injustice against us and acknowledge our sovereignty? Will you, as a first step towards this and towards the eradication of terrorism, urge your government to recall the Sri Lanka Police Force and the Armed Forces — the wholesale merchants of terrorism — from our soil? I leave it to you to decide whether you will show the world how broadminded you are. Though belonging to a different nation, as fellow citizens living in the same island we have participated in the inquiry hoping for your understanding. Today we have made our position quite clear. If the understanding that flows from this prompts you in the future to raise your voice on our behalf, our hearts will be filled with satisfaction. **I wish to tell you sincerely here and now that even if this understanding doesn't become a reality, we will throw the full weight of our support behind you when you rise up in the future to free yourselves to shatter the social and economic fetters that shackle you now.**

Through this case we have made our real position known to the world and in particular to the people of this island. This is the joyous feeling that is uppermost in our minds. It is the people's verdict that is important to us; we are confident it will definitely be in our favour. Even a hundred fabricated cases against us and all the slanders that may be poured on s, are not going to bother us one bit hereafter.

It is we who are going to win through this kind of action of yours. The consequence of your verdict won't touch us, they are something alien to us. We will not flinch from embracing death or spending the rest of our lives in jail, content as we are that we have done our duty. All these are merely commonplace incidents in the history of a nation's struggle for freedom. We were fully conscious of what we were doing; hence there's no question of disappointment. **We are firm believers in the saying that what one sows one reaps. That is why our minds are calm. The seeds we sowed were not seeds of poison, our arrow-heads were not dipped in venom. But my fervent prayer is that innocent Sinhalese people should not have to reap what power hungry Sinhalese politicians have sown. These tribulations are a boon bestowed by God to purify us. The final victory is ours.**

While thanking our lawyers, the organizations and the people who have spoken up for us and supported us, we ask the people and all organizations to forget their differences and unite, as this is the only path to freedom.

"Long Live Tamil! Long Live Tamil Eelam!

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

WE CAN ARRANGE FOR SPECIALIST PACKING FORWARDING OF ALL YOUR CARGO INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD PERSONAL EFFECTS TO ANY DESTINATION IN THE WORLD. CONTINUOUS RECEIVING.

○ *REGULAR CONTAINERS TO MOST COUNTRIES* ○

○ TAX FREE SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL GOODS

- CLEARANCE CAN BE ARRANGED AT DESTINATION -

☆ *INSURANCE ARRANGED AT COMPETITIVE RATES AT*

SPECIALISTS IN MULTI STANDARD TELEVISIONS VIDEO RECORDERS AND SATELLITE TRACKING EQUIPMENT

RELIANCE INTERNATIONAL EXPORT

Contact Kuhan, 67A, Sydenham Road, London SE26 5UA

Tel: 01-778 6563

(24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE - 01-659 4729)

01-467 5811 (7-10pm Only)

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 12

'Political profile of the Muslim Minority of Sri Lanka' and in this she had analysed the Muslim view-point of the intended separate state and the reservations and fears they possess regarding it. (**International Studies,** Delhi, vol.18, no.1, 27-48). Recently, another academic had assessed the Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka from the cultural angle. (Bryan Pfaffenberger — 'The cultural dimension of Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka'. **Asian Survey**, vol.21, no.11, 1145-1157, (1981). Contributions like these reveal that the Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka has attracted the attention of academics as well, for scholarly research.

c) Descriptions in Reference source books, Encylopaedias.

However the Sri Lankan government may have tried to defuse the Eelam propaganda machinery, or to distort facts and present a 'good image' to the world, it could not succeed in withholding the appearance of the 'Eelam message' from the standard reference source books, Encyclopaedias and Geographic Atlases.

For example, in 1975, **'The Peoples Almanac'** (edited by Wallechinsky and Wallace) did not have anything to write about the struggle of Tamils for a separate state. However, in the 1978 edition of the same Almanac, Lenny Siegel, described in a paragraph, the then existing Sri Lankan situation as follows:—

The Tamil and Muslim minorities, which make up 20% and 5% of the population respectively, face discrimination including pogroms and the direct seizure of land — by the Sinhalese majority. Half the Tamil population, called 'Indian Tamils', because they were brought over from India within the last 100 years to work on British plantations, has been disenfranchised since 1948. The Tamil leadership advocates the creation of a separate socialist state in northern Ceylon. Nearly all the Tamil members of parliament have pledged loyalty to this unrecognised state of ***Thamil Eelam.'***

The ***1978 World Year Book****, the Annual supplement of the World Book Encyclopaedia, reporting the 1977 events reviewed,*

'Compounding the unrest was the growing militancy of the Hindu Tamils, descendants of people who came to Sri Lanka from southern India — about 2.5 million of them in a population of 14 million. About 1 million Tamils were tea and rubber-plantation workers who only wanted a little more rice for their families. But the other 1.5 million resented the heavy-handedness of the Buddhist Sinhalese majority and wanted independence.

Bloodshed came close on the heels of the election, with political rivals murdering each other. On August 19, Sinhalese hoodlums raided Tamil huts on a plantation and within five days the killing of Tamils and looting of their property spread to other areas. The government quickly organised air and sea evacuation for the imperilled thousands, taking them to refugee camps in the north. The bloody spree intensified Tamil demands for independence.' (p.485)

In addition, the authoritative **Britannica Year Books,** published by the Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., from 1975, have included at least one sentence references regarding the problems and demands of the Tamil-speaking population in present Sri Lanka.

1) *'... The Tamils of northern Sri Lanka at last obtained their own branch of Sri Lanka university, but the community was still dissatisfied, and talk of federalism and even separatism continued.'*
(Britannica Year Book 1975, p.640)

2) *'... Jayewardene and leaders of the Tamil United Front were demanding full regional autonomy for the north and east where they dominated.'*
(Britannica Year Book 1976, p.630)

3) *'... In May, the government declared a state of emergency after receiving reports that antigovernment forces were planning subversive action. Mrs. Bandaranaike referred particularly to the Tamil Federal Party's campaign for a separate state. Communal riots between Muslims and Sinhalese in Puttalam district of North Western Province triggered a demand for autonomy in the eastern districts where Muslims were in a majority.'*
(Britannica Year Book 1977, p.630)

4) *In Sri Lanka, the special status accorded to Buddhism by the 1972 Constitution was threatened by the vocal opposition of the Tamil minority.'*
(Britannica Year Book 1979, p.605)

5) *'... In early April four police officers were murdered in the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna, supposedly by Tamil separatist terrorists. Isolated attacks on policemen and government officials followed, but security forces deployed in the area were able to keep violence in check. Anti-terrorist legislation passed in May proscribed the Tamil Tiger Liberation Movement and similar groups.'*
(Britannica Year Book 1977, p.636)

6) *'... The Tamil Minority's demand for a separate state continued. The government declared a state of emergency in July to combat terrorism by militant Tamil youth. An all-party presidential commission to consider the Tamils' problems was set up on August 10, but the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party refused to co-operate.'*
(Britannica year Book 1980, p.632)

7) *'... A major legislative effort in tackling the country's ethnic problems was the passage in August of the district development bill, introduced after the verdict of a presidential commission that a separate Tamil homeland could not be permitted. It provided for decentralisation and the association of people of various regions through 24 elected district councils.'*
(Brittanica Year Book 1981, p.632)

4. PUBLICITY

The last of the strategy, publicity, is still in its infancy, and this may be in part due to lack of funds. One notable example of this strategy was made by Krishna Vaikunthavasan, when the United Nations General Assembly was in session, during Oct. 1978. On 5th October, 1978, the B.B.C. World News reported:—

'At the U.N. General Assembly, there has been a demonstration in support of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. Just as the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister was approaching the rostrum to speak, a man rushed forward and said, he wanted to make an appeal on behalf of the Tamils, who he said were victims of genocide by the Sri Lanka government. At that point the microphone was cut off and the man was led away by a guard. The protestor was later identified as a former Sri Lankan judge, now living in London.'
(Thamil Eelam in 1982; p.22)

The official version of this incident, as reported by the

CONTD. ON PAGE 19

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

SRI LANKAN CANADIAN TAMILS ORGANIZE

by Beno John

Unlike most ethnic organizations, Canadians of Sri Lankan, Tamil origin are primarily organized to combat what they feel is the deliberate oppression of the Tamil minority of Sri Lanka by the Sinhalese majority which presently dominates the government.

As long as the Tamil minority remains oppressed by the present Sri Lankan government, local Sri Lankan Tamils, whohave organized themselves (in Alberta) as the Ealam Tamil Association of Alberta, are committed to the creation of a separate Ealam Tamil nation. Ealam was the name of the separate Tamil kingdom of Lanka before the British combined the two kingdoms to create Ceylon in 1833.

In addition to raising funds for Tamils left homeless by Sinhalese violence directed against the Tamils of SriLanka, the group is raising funds for the reconstruction of the Jaffna Public Library, a major library whichheld many irreplacable manuscripts vital to the heritage of the Tamils who have flourished in the island from the 7th century A.D.

In an interview with the Link, executive members of the Alberta Association indicated that other then their primaryconcern with aiding the Tamils of Sri Lanka, their efforts are alsodirected towards infrming the Canadian government of the situation in the countryof their origin. It is the association's conviction that Canadian aid to Sri Lanka is being misappropriated bythe Sinhalese dominated government to the detriment of the Tamil minority.

Enlisting Edmonton M.P., David Kilgour to air the association's complaints to the federal government, Kilgour, in a letter to the Department of External Affairs dated Sept 1, 1982, asked for clarification ofthe Canadian government's CIDA policy in light of the "Sinhalese dominated government" which has seen the decline of the Tamil percentage in the public service in "clerical participation from 30 per cent in 1956 to 5 per cent in 1970, professional from 60 per cent to 10 per cent in the same period, armed forces, 40 per cent to 1 per cent; labour from 40 to 5." Kilgour also questions the "taxes of Canadian residents of Tamil origin being used by CIDA in Sri Lanka for aid programs from which Tamils are all but completely barred from participation."

Marx & National Liberation

"It was Marx and Engels who first established a connection, in theory and in proletarian policy, between the struggle for national liberation and the working class struggle in the capitalist countries.

"They did not have in mind a general kind of solidarity bearing only on the emotional sphere, but a solidarity determined by objective factors and practiced in joint struggle.

"They regarded this connection especially as a problem of internationalism, of political education of the working class and its release from the bonds which held it tied to the bourgeoisie and its policies.

"Hence the well-known formula which says: 'No nation can be free if it oppresses other nations'."

K. A. Brutents in **"National Liberation Revolutions To-day".**

SHIPPING YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS?

CONSIDER THESE FACILITIES WE OFFER YOU

- Your precious cargo is handled with care
- We pack your goods under your own supervision
- You handover your goods to our warehouse in London and you collect your cargo from our own warehouse in Colombo
- This eliminates wharf and other administrative charges
- No third party handles your cargo any longer

*** WE DO NOT OFFER YOU DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE, BUT WAREHOUSE TO WAREHOUSE**

*** WE MAY NOT BE THE CHEAPEST. BUT WE GIVE YOU A SERVICE WORTH EVERY PENNY YOU SPEND BECAUSE WE PUT IN A LOT OF PROFESSIONAL WORK TO GET YOUR CARGO, HOWEVER SMALL, ON TIME AND IN SAFETY.**

Stuart House,
River Park Road,
Wood Green,
London N22 4TB
Telephone: 01-889 6902 (4 Lines)
01-889 7972
Telex: 883240 -TRIEX -

TRICO INTERNATIONAL

TRICO INT. SHIPPING & FORWARDING (GMBH)
NEUGR BAHNHORF STRASE 133
2104, HAMBURG 92
WEST GERMANY
TEL: HAMBURG 701-7744/7085/6
TELEX 217668 - TRICO D

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

CONTD. FROM PAGE 17

'United Nations Official Bulletin', is as follows:

'. . . That other General Assembly incident is of the 'foreign minister' of Sri Lanka. How the London Barrister, Krishna Vaikunthavasan, ever managed to reach the rostrum to deliver his impassioned two-minute appeal on behalf of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority is still a mystery. As soon as President Indalecio Liveano realised Vaikunthavasan was not the real Foreign Minister, Sahul Hamid, a switch was thrown cutting off the imposter's microphone and guards hustled him out of the hall. . .'

(United National Official bulletin, Oct.9, 1978; quoted in Thamil Eelam in 1982; p.23)

Reputed Sri Lanka journalist, Reggie Michael, writing in the **'Independent'** of October 13, 1978 observed:—

'Did Krishna Vaikunthavasan, the Ceylonese who created history at the United Nations Assembly by being the first ever, uninvited, gate-crashing, non-delegate to speak from the speaker's podium have an accredited foreign delegate as an accomplice?'

'Speculation points to the accomplice being from the Afro-Arab bloc, which along with Asia dominates the U.N. Vaikunthavasan was also a Marxist. Whoever his accomplice was, both friend and foe admit that Vaikunthavasan's spectacular U.N. raid had the same publicity impact as a hijacking, whatever cause it espoused.

'It is pointed out that in 32 years of U.N. existence (its first meeting was in Jan. 1946) no radical organisation like the P.L.O. or the I.R.A. or the Red Guards, even the Baader-Meinhoff Urban guerrilas, had attempted such a daring means of focusing world attention on a national problem . . .

This publicity stunt of Vaikunthavasan caused a panic among the Sri Lanka politicians, as evident from the Parliamentary proceedings of Oct.20th 1978 (**Hansard**, vol.1, no.8, 20th Oct. 1978, cols. 762-763).

FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION

This has to be carried out simultaneously within and outside Sri Lanka.

I) Outside Sri Lanka

1) Closer collaboration among the expatriate Tamils in different countries.
2) Setting up a data-bank and Information Secretariat, to collect, store and co-ordinate activities.
3) Penetration into the communication media, as well as contacting citizens of other countries, where the Eelam message is yet to be echoed. This includes the socialist-bloc countries, African and Latin American countries, which are non-English speaking.
   If organised level penetration seems difficult at first, it will have to be initiated at a personal level, by those who have the interest and will.
   Examples: a) Corresponding with pen-pals, and contributing the message of Eelam; b) Presenting gift items in any form, depicting Eelam and its occupants.
4) Sharing our concern with those International citizens, who are precariously placed in similar situations. Examples include Palestinians, Irish freedom fighters, French-speaking Canadians, etc.

II) Within Sri Lanka

1) Groups with International appeal are definitely the Indian Tamils and Muslims. Unfortunately, though both these groups are Tamil-speaking, their support for the cause of Eelam has not been tapped to its maximum.
2) Collection, compilation and publication of the diaries, letters and other revealing documents (relating to Eelam struggle):—
   a) of the political leaders,
      i) of yester years (S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, G.G. Ponnambalam, M. Thirchelvam, S. Kathiravelpillai).
      i) of present generation (A. Amirthalingam, M. Sivasithamparam).
   b) of martyrs (for example, Sivakumaran).
   c) of trade unionists (for example, K. C. Nithiananda, Rasaratnam).

Conclusion:

In conclusion, we tend to agree with what had been said about the Eelam movement in the Indian Express, nearly two years ago.

". . . All said and done, the cause for Eelam has picked up pace now and what it lacked in world propaganda in the 1950s and 1960s has been effectively achieved in the 1970s and the present decade."

(Indian Express, July 13, 1981).

And still we have a long way to go.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

There are many who wish to receive the Tamil Times but do not. Some write to us, having been shown the paper by our subscribers, ask for back numbers, and enquire as to why they have had no information about the paper. Please send us the names and addresses of your friends and relations so that we may send them introductory free copies.

ANTHONY R MORGAN AND ASSOCIATES
P. SRINIVASAN
(Sole Proprietor)

TO HELP YOU WITH
MOTOR INSURANCE
Competitive Rates, Easy Terms, Short Term Policy, Immediate cover from Lloyd's and BIA Companies (Sri Lanka No Claim Bonus accepted).

☆ ***HOUSEHOLD INSURANCE***
Immediate cover from leading Insurance Company, "New for Old", "Index-Linked" "Accidental Damage Cover", "Deep Freezer Cover" All Risk on Personal Belongings, Jewellery Cover. Free Advice on All insurance including claim procedure.

☆ ***HOLIDAY/TRAVEL INSURANCE***
Immediate Worldwide Cover (Including USA Medical Cover).

WE ARE SPECIALISTS IN -

SCHOOL FEES PLAN
LOW COST ENDOWMENT *(House Purchase)*
ENDOWMENT WITH PROFIT *(Saving Plan with Tax Relief)*
100% JOINT HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEME *(Professional and Senior Posts)*
MORTGAGE PROTECTION *(Cheapest way of covering the mortgage, Single or Joint)*
HEALTH INSURANCE *(Permanent or Temporary)*
REMORTGAGE & SECOND MORTGAGE *(Home Improvements, Purchase of Second Property, School Fees*

FOR PERSONAL SERVICE
PLEASE RING P. SRINIVASAN
01-679 1952 3 (office) *01-656 0396 (home)*

ARM ***ANTHONY R. MORGAN AND ASSOCIATES***
1524 London Road, London S.W.16
☆ *AGENTS FOR LAMBETH BUILDING SOCIETY* ☆

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

BOMB EXPLOSIONS HERALD HIGH LEVEL SECURITY CONFERENCE

Only a few hours before a high level conference on security in the Northern Province was to take place, bombs exploded blasting part of the building in which the conference was to be held and setting ablaze several vehicles including army jeeps. The conference was to be chaired by the District Minister, Mr. U.B. Wijekoon with Members of Parliament, Jaffna District Development Council Chairman, Jaffna Mayor and top Police, Army and Navy officers participating.

The Conference Hall was badly damaged and therefore the venue was changed to the Government Agent's Office on the upper storey of the building. Reports indicated that five bombs had been placed at the rear of the Conference Hall of which four had exploded one after another setting ablaze a row of parked vehicles.

MIRJE PROTESTS

THE Vavuniya Branch of the Movement for Inter Racial Justice and Equality has protested against the arrest and detention of Gandhiyam president and Secretary. The protest statement addressed to "all those concerned with Justice", states:

"Gandhiyam is the main Social Service Organisation involved in assisting the poor hill-country Tamil refugees settled in Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts.

"Of late these poor refugee settlements and Gandhiyam have been subjected to all kinds of intimidation and harassment regarding which we have already protested.

"The Ghandiyam office and the residence of the Secretary Dr. Rajassundaram have been subjected to all kinds of intimidation and search in the past. On Wednesday 6th April about twenty Army, Police and CID officers searched the Ghandiyam office and the residence of Dr. Rajasundaram.

"We request all those concerned with justice in our land to protest against this kind of intimidation and harassment of Ghandiyam, themain Social Service Organisation in the North to help hill-country Tamil refugees."

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TEAR-GASSED AND BEATEN

Sixty students of Sri Jayawardanapura University, including Buddhist monks and girls, were injured and 20 arrested and remanded, when police beat up and tear-gassed the 3,000 students of this University who were holding a meeting in support of their strike. An attempt, two days earlier, to use the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya (JSS — UNP trade union) thugs, imported in CTB buses, to intimidate the students misfired when the residents of the area chased the thugs away.

The police contingent on the University Campus is so large that the students have dubbed this University the "Police Academy".

PEACE MARCH AGAINST PTA STUDENTS TEAR-GASSED & ASSAULTED

The three-day long peace march calling for the repeal of the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act which commenced on April 5th was attacked by the police who fired tear gas bombs into the crowds in an attempt to disperse them.

The students later regrouped themselves at the Jaffna Cathedral Grounds and spent the day performing Satyagraha. Several students, including girls are reported to have been injured in course of the police attack. The whereabouts of two students who were seen being thrown into a police truck in the course of the police action are not known. Over fifty students were taken into police custody some of whom have been released.

On April 6th. the city of Jaffna observed a hartal with shops and cinemas remaining closed.

DETAINED FOR DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS

Two young men and two young girls who were distributing leaflets at the Vavuniya bus stand calling for a hartal in Vavuniya in protest against the arrest of Dr. Rajasundaram, the Secretary of Gandhiyam, were taken into custody by the Vavuniya police on 7th April.

It is believed that the four — Rukmani (20), Shanthi (18), Veerakumar Jeevan and Pushpan have not been released yet and there are reasonable grounds to suspect th they have been subjected to torture and inhuman treatment by the security forces.

Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right .
Rudyard Kipling.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 9

tures supported by slim managerial resources. It may well be that part of our future efforts should be directed to strengthening those groups which actually work on the ground so that they are capable of extracting maximum benefits for the community from the funds we are able to provide them.

TAMIL TIMES
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK/India/Sri Lanka £6.00
All other countries £10.00

Tamil Times Ltd,
P.O. Box 304,
London W13 9QN.

- I wish to pay/renew my subscription for one/two years.
- I am also sending you a subscription on behalf of .....
- Please send an introductory free copy to; .....
- I enclose a donation of .....
- My cheque/intl. money order in favour of Tamil Times Ltd is to the total value of.....

NAME: .....
ADDRESS .....
.....
..... Tel No: .....

*Delete if inapplicable

Published by TAMIL TIMES LTD and printed by Modern Offset Litho, Greenford, Middlesex. Tel: 01-575 2964

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org